

complements of the foregoing nucleic acids are also embraced by the invention. The preferred cadherin-11 homologs have at least 85% sequence homology to SEQ. ID. NO: 1. More preferably the cadherin-11 homologs have at least 90% and most preferably at least 95% sequence homology to SEQ. ID. NO: 1. The homology can be calculated using various, publicly available software tools developed by NCBI (Bethesda, Maryland) that can be obtained through the internet at the NCBI/NIH website. Exemplary tools include the BLAST system available at the NCBI/NIH website. Pairwise and ClustalW alignments (BLOSUM30 matrix setting) as well as Kyte-Doolittle hydropathic analysis can be obtained using the MacVector sequence analysis software (Oxford Molecular Group).

In the Claims

Please re-write the claims as indicated below. A marked-up version of the claims is provided in Appendix A.

1. (Once Amended) A method for treating a subject having an inflammatory joint disorder comprising

administering to a subject in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a cadherin-11 inhibitory agent

wherein the cadherin-11 inhibitory agent is an antibody to cadherin-11 that inhibits binding of cadherin-11 to a cadherin-11 counter-receptor.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the inflammatory joint disorder is an autoimmune disease.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the cadherin-11 inhibitory agent is administered locally to a synovium of the subject.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the cadherin-11 inhibitory agent binds selectively to cadherin-11.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the cadherin-11 counter-receptor is selected from the group consisting of a cadherin, an integrin, a carbohydrate and an immunoglobulin family member.

B³ 44. (Once Amended) A method for treating a subject having an inflammatory joint disorder comprising
administering to a subject in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of an agent that is an antibody to cadherin-11 which modulates a cellular function in a cadherin-11 expressing cell.

45. The method of claim 44, wherein the cellular function is selected from the group consisting of cell proliferation, factor secretion, apoptosis, migration and attachment.

50. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the inflammatory joint disorder is chronic synovitis.

B⁴ 51. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the autoimmune disease is rheumatoid arthritis.

52. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein cadherin-11 and the cadherin-11 counter-receptor are expressed by separate cells.

53. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein cadherin-11 is expressed by a cell selected from the group consisting of a type A synoviocyte, a type B synoviocyte, a synovial derived fibroblast, a synovial membrane lining cell, an osteoblast, a cartilage-derived cell and an invasive pannus-derived cell.

54. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the cadherin-11 counter-receptor is expressed by a cell selected from the group consisting of a type A synoviocyte, a type B synoviocyte, a synovial derived fibroblast, a synovial membrane lining cell, an osteoblast, a